

memorandum

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: August 1, 1979

REPLY TO: Masood Akram
ATTN OF: Economic Advisor

SUBJECT: Islamic Rally at Peshawar University

TO: Douglas B. Archard
Principal Officer

Beginning from July 21, 1979, a three-day rally of Islami Jamiat-i-Tulaba was held at the campus of Peshawar University under the auspices of their NWFP Branch. Fairly elaborate arrangements were made to receive the delegates to the rally who came from all over the country. Transportation, boarding and lodging facilities were arranged by very enthusiastic workers of Islami Jamiat-i-Tulaba of Peshawar University. It is somewhat difficult to say how many out-of-town delegates attended the rally. Estimates vary from 500 to over 1,000. Delegates included a twenty-man delegation from Saudi Arabia. The total audience in certain sessions exceeded 3,000 persons.

According to Shabir Ahmed, a medical student at Peshawar University, and Irshad ul-Haq, a businessman, both enthusiastic supporters of Jamaat - i - Islami (J.I.), who attended the rally, the declared objective of the rally was to infuse the spirit of Islam in Pakistani youth, and prepare the young generation for handling the responsibility of an Islamic society. With this end in view, sermons by learned scholars of Islam, speeches by leaders of J.I. and meetings for recitation and interpretation of Quran, were organized during different sessions of the rally. An exhibition dealing with the history of the Islamic revolution in Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan was also held.

The rally received a good will message from Maulana Maudoodi, the founder of J.I. who predicted a resurgence and the final supremacy of Islam. A number of top leaders of J.I. came to address the rally. They included Professor Ghafoor, Professor Khurshid, Mian Tufail Mohammad, Qazi Hussain Ahmed and others. Prominent among the student leaders were Liaqat Baluch, Shabir Ahmed, Arbab Afridi, and Zafar Jamal Baluch. Practically all the leaders of the J.I. who addressed the rally talked about the basic themes: (1) Greatness of Islam as a solution for the problems of today's world with special reference to Pakistan, (2) the rather precarious state of Pakistan's national economy, and (3) Jihad and Islamic resurgence. For instance, Professor Khurshid said that Islam is the only religion which came to overshadow everything else.

CONFIDENTIAL

E.O. 12065 CDS July 31, 1985 (ARCI AK., DOUGLAS B.) OR-M

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(REV. 7-78)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
5010-112

and it teaches one to live a revolutionary life. He said that every Pakistani is in debt for ten thousand rupees. He tried to disassociate the PNA from responsibility for preparation of the new Federal budget.

The head of Jamaat-Islami Afghanistan, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani and the head of Hezb-i-Islami, Afghanistan Gulbadeen Hekmatyar, also addressed the rally. Rabbani paid glowing tribute to the Islamic revolution in Iran. He also praised the efforts of Pakistanis to introduce an Islamic system in the country. He emphasized the importance of laying down one's life for the cause of religion and said such sacrifices always bear fruit. Rabbani also described the cruel treatment being meted out to religious scholars and believers in Afghanistan by the Taraki government. Hekmatyar confined his remarks to a description of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan. He pointed out the great sacrifices which the people of Afghanistan are making to save their religion from communism. He praised Islami Jamiati-Tulaba for working for the glory of God and Islam.

The Iranian Charge de Affaire, Gung Dost, inaugurated an exhibition dealing with the struggle for Islamic revolution in Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. He described the recent Islamic revolution in Iran and praised Islam as the only system which can cope with today's problems. He felt that no one can stop the resurgence of Islam.

Commenting to me on the rally, a senior member of the Peshawar University faculty said disdainfully that the rally was responsible for making the campus dirty. He pointed out that few local students had participated in it. The fairly large audience, he said, was due to the presence of Class IV employees (peons, chowkidars, etc.) and youngsters from the neighboring villages who came to get free meals. He said that the general approach of J.I. students is very militant. In his opinion, these students do not have much chance in the Peshawar University politics, as PPP and Pushtoon students are the really strong groups here.

E. L. K.
Drafted by: MAKram

DBA
Approved by: DBA rchard

cc: AMB, SPEC, Lahore, Karachi, Kabul (POL), Tehran (POL),
NEA/PAB, INR/RNA/SGA, INR/OIL/B

CONFIDENTIAL